



News Release

STATE OF MARYLAND

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony G. Brown
Lt. Governor

Gary D. Maynard
Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mark Vernarelli (410) 339-5065

www.dpscs.state.md.us

Division of Correction K9 Unit To Train States' DOCs On the Use of Cell Phone Detector Dogs

TOWSON, MD (October 17, 2008)---The Maryland Division of Correction's groundbreaking effort to train dogs to detect illegal cell phones inside state correctional facilities has attracted worldwide attention. Next week, seven states and the District of Columbia will send their corrections representatives to Hagerstown to learn about the unique effort firsthand.

Maryland is the first state to train its own cell phone-detecting canines, and the first state to breed its own contraband-detecting dogs. As a result of worldwide publicity from news reports, many state correctional agencies have been calling the Division of Correction Canine Unit (DOC K9) asking for guidance and training.

DOC K9's multi-state three-day training will be held at the Sleep Inn on Sharpsburg Pike (Md. 65) just south of I-70 at exit 29 on October 20-22.

Members of the media will be allowed to attend the first portion of the introductory session on Monday morning, October 20 at 8 a.m., and see a demonstration of the dog locating a cell phone.

Correctional agencies from as far away as Oregon are coming to Hagerstown because they're anxious to learn more about how to combat the drastic increase in contraband cell phones, which endanger prison staff, inmates, and the public.

A few weeks ago, the Canadian Border Services Agency sent its top officials to Hagerstown, Cumberland, and Baltimore to meet with DOC K9 and Security Operations staff to discuss the K9 cell phone interdiction effort.

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